



437360

**NIKE C-70**

DuPage County

Illinois EPA 0434670016

Des Plaines Region

**SITE DESCRIPTION**

Total Acreage: 61.11

**FUDS Listing: 1998  
Congressional District 48/96  
House 41 / Senate 21**

The Nike C-70 site is located near Naperville, Illinois and includes three distinct areas: the launch, housing, and control areas. The Control and Housing Areas were the location of the Nike weapon system's radar, computer, and control equipment as well as administrative offices, accommodations, and recreational facilities for approximately 80 soldiers. The former Launch Area (approximately 47 acres) is located immediately south of Diehl Road and east of Mill Street in Naperville and was used for assembly, maintenance, underground storage, testing, and potential firing of missiles. The entire property was comprised of 61.11 acres of fee-owned land and 40.95 acres of easements. The easements were used for safety zones, access, clear lines of sight, and utility rights-of-way. There were 21 Nike structures on the entire site.

**SITE HISTORY**

Developed during the cold war, Nike Missile air defense networks were deployed as the "last line of defense" around key American government, industrial, transportation, and military locations. Nike C-70 was one of 22 Nike Missile Batteries located in upstate Illinois and Indiana providing anti-aircraft protection for the Chicago metropolitan area. The property was purchased in 1955 and 1956 for use by the Department of Defense as part of a Launch, Housing, and Control facility and was operated in a constant state of alert by the U.S. Army from 1955 to 1964. The entire Nike Site C-70 was declared excess to Department of Defense needs on May 1, 1964 and was transferred to the General Services Administration (GSA) for disposal.

The Control and Housing Area is currently the site of the BP Research Center. A 14.22-acre portion of the Launch Area, now owned by the City of Naperville, is being used as a park (Nike Park). Barofsky & Associates owns approximately 30 acres of the land formerly containing the launching pits and associated structures. None of the 10 Nike aboveground structures located in the launch area remain, and two of the three missile silos were filled in. The third silo and part of an underground bunker remain in use under the existing building at 1717 Park Place.

**INVESTIGATIVE HISTORY / CONTAMINANTS**

Lead Agency: U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)

The Illinois EPA has been working with BP and USACE to address trichloroethylene (TCE)-contaminated groundwater found beneath and in the vicinity of the former Nike C-70 site. To

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date, the launch area has been the focus of the environmental investigations with which Illinois EPA has been involved. Additional investigation has been completed by BP on their property. The history is as follows.

- 1988 – The USACE deemed the Nike C-70 site eligible for inclusion in its Defense Environmental Restoration Program-Formerly Used Department of Defense Sites (DERP-FUDS) program.
- 1997 – A Focused Site Investigation included surface water samples from storm retention ponds, soil and groundwater samples from 10 temporary well points, and the earthen berm at the southern extreme of the Launch Area was investigated. Naperville Well Number 10 was sampled and no contaminants were found.
- 1999 – A Supplemental Site Investigation (SSI) was conducted that revealed a small TCE plume. Four additional temporary wells and 6 permanent wells were installed.
- 2000 / 2001 – The first phase of another SSI was completed in 2000. Soil and groundwater samples were collected from 4 temporary wells along with groundwater samples from 3 existing permanent wells. Two of the temporary wells had TCE in them prompting a second phase in 2001 during which 10 more temporary and 6 permanent wells were installed. Residential well sampling south of the Launch Area along Bauer Road revealed TCE contamination above the Maximum Contaminant Level (5 ppb), which is equivalent to Illinois Class I Groundwater Quality Standard for TCE.
- 2002 – The first phase of Remedial Investigation (RI) was conducted. Ten monitoring wells were installed, including 6 shallow and 4 deep wells. As part of the second phase of the RI, 10 new wells were installed to better understand the hydrogeology of the site and to better define the extent of TCE-contaminated groundwater. USACE management of the project was transferred from the Buffalo District to the Louisville District.
- 2003 – A groundwater investigation included the installation of 15 new wells, installed at various depth intervals to verify the vertical extent of TCE contamination. All wells, old and new, were sampled for VOCs. In addition, as part of a Focused RI, a soil gas survey was conducted to estimate TCE vapor exposure. A total of 73 soil gas samples were collected. Surface soil sampling (21 samples) also was done around other potential contaminant sources. Nine more permanent wells were installed and geotechnical and aquifer testing conducted. USACE and Illinois EPA successfully petitioned the City of Naperville to allow connection to the municipal water supply of 45 homes in Knights Subdivision and along Bauer Road without annexation.
- 2004 – An additional Source Area and Supplemental Investigation was completed between May and June. Seventeen soil borings were advanced to find potential TCE sources in soil; 9 within the northernmost plume, 4 at the upgradient end of the southwestern plume, and 4 at the upgradient end of the southeastern plume. Results indicated that 3 distinct TCE plumes were present in the launch area (one in the north and 2 in the south). These plumes co-mingle where they meet in the Launch Area, but no TCE sources in soils were found. During the second phase of the supplemental investigation, 5 more wells were installed to define the outer boundaries of the plumes found in the upper aquifer. As part of an RI addendum investigation, 4 wells were installed north of I-88 on BP property. These wells confirmed that the northern plume likely originated on BP and/or the former Control Area property. BP began participating in USACE's regular public meetings in September 2004.

- 2005 – In July, the Illinois EPA approved the second addendum work plan for the RI. A total of 34 of 43 wells sampled by USACE had TCE greater than the MCL/620 Standard. Through routine compliance monitoring, the Division of Public Water Supplies found that the City of Naperville's emergency backup well #10 contained TCE (5-6 ppb). Naperville's #10 well was found to lie in the western periphery of the larger TCE plume emanating from the Control Area/BP Research Center. USACE issued its "Final Comprehensive Remedial Investigation Report" in August 2005. No risks to human health and the environment were identified in Launch Area surface soils (17 samples), subsurface soils (49 samples), surface water (2 samples from detention ponds A + B), sediment (1 sample, pond B) and soil gas (73 samples). Through USACE's 7 environmental investigations, including the installation of 59 groundwater monitoring wells, three distinct TCE plumes have been identified in the "upper shallow aquifer" (approximately 30-40 feet below ground surface) at the former Nike C-70 Launch Area. The two southern plumes appear to be associated with releases from the C-70 Launch Area, but no actual source areas could be located via extensive soil and groundwater sampling.
- 2006 – Illinois EPA reviewed and approved a revised Inventory Project Report (INPR) for the Former Nike C-70 Control Area. The Corps determined that the Control Area was eligible for inclusion in the DERP-FUDS Program. BP initiated investigation of the presence of TCE on its own property in July 2006. TCE in soil was discovered in Building 800 Complex areas where BP identified TCE handling had occurred. TCE groundwater exceedances were identified in 15 wells on the BP property in the vicinity of the Building 700 and 800 Complexes.
- 2007 – The Naperville Park District acquired a 20-acre parcel of land along Mill Street, abutting the former Launch Area. The park district entered the property in the Site Remediation Program (SRP) due to the known groundwater contamination from the BP and Nike Sites. In January, BP submitted a Subsurface Investigations Report for "information only." BP collected 2 rounds of groundwater samples from USACE wells south of I-88 (June/July and December).
- 2008 – On June 3, 2008 USACE notified Illinois EPA that they had approved a "PRP Project" for the entirety of the Nike C-70 site. This means that USACE will not spend any more money investigating or cleaning up the site until liability issues are resolved through the U.S. Department of Justice. In addition, any future Government expenses are likely to be paid out of DOJ's "Judgment Fund." BP collected 4 rounds of groundwater samples from USACE wells south of I-88.
- 2009 - The Naperville Park District obtained a focused No Further Remediation (NFR) Letter on June 25, 2009 from the SRP. The NFR Letter only addresses volatile organic compounds and relies on two groundwater ordinances; one from Naperville (09-038, adopted April 9, 2009) and one from DuPage County (OEN-001-009, adopted April 14, 2009). In April 2009 Illinois EPA asked USACE and BP to waive their administrative rights under Section 31 of the Act and enter into a tri-party (IEPA, BP and USACE) consent order requiring completion of investigation and remediation activities under CERCLA. The alternative was that Illinois EPA would send violation notices. BP agreed in correspondence dated April 23, 2009. USACE did not waive its rights and a Violation Notice (M-2009-01002) was sent on July 2, 2009. USACE provided a written response, logged as a Compliance Commitment Agreement, on August 25, 2009. The

CCA was rejected by Illinois EPA on August 26, 2009. Pursuant to Section 31(b) of the Act, Illinois EPA issued a Notice of Intent to Pursue Legal Action to USACE on September 14, 2009 for violations of Section 12(a) and 12(d) of the Act. BP collected four rounds of groundwater samples from USACE wells south of I-88.

- 2010 - BP collected three rounds of groundwater samples from USACE wells south of I-88.
- 2011 – Meeting with USACE, BP and Department of Justice. Claim of sovereign immunity by DOJ

## **REMEDATION ACTIVITIES**

In July 2000, the USACE sampled 43 residential wells in Knights Subdivision and along Bauer Road, south of the Launch Area. Eight of the wells had detectable concentrations of TCE, with four exceeding the drinking water standard for TCE of 5 ppb. USACE placed these homes on whole-house filtration systems to truncate the exposure pathway. All private potable wells within Knights subdivision and along Bauer Road were abandoned in September 2003. In September and October of 2004, USACE connected 45 homes to the City of Naperville water supply.

## **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

The Corps held the inaugural Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting for this site on June 27, 2002 in order to build community involvement and understanding at the site. Periodic RAB meetings were held until October 2005. The Corps ceased holding regular RAB meetings at that time due to dwindling interest by the public after residences south of the Launch Area were connected to the public water supply and USACE's determination that the source of the larger plume emanates from the BP property. Despite waning interest and increasing liability tensions between BP and USACE, BP led several additional information sessions at their offices with a couple of stalwart RAB members, the last occurring in March 2008.

## **CURRENT ISSUES**

Illinois EPA officially referred the ongoing violations to the Illinois Attorney General's Office (IAGO) on January 26, 2010. Since that time, the IAGO has drafted a complaint with input from Illinois EPA. During a meeting with BP, USACE and Illinois EPA on March 30, 2011, the IAGO threatened to file the complaint in court if BP and USACE did not resume their liability negotiations in earnest. The U.S. Department of Justice finally became involved at the end of June 2011 after the IAGO threatened to file a complaint. Several attorney-only conference calls ensued and the IAGO circulated a draft Consent Decree for comment. Information sharing between BP and USACE reportedly is occurring. Some PRP resolution to move forward may have been reached between these parties, as they seek technical consultation with Illinois EPA during the week of August 29, 2011.

## CONTACT

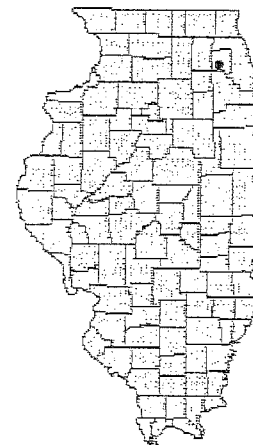
Paul Lake  
Illinois EPA Project Manager  
(217) 785-7728  
[Paul.Lake@illinois.gov](mailto:Paul.Lake@illinois.gov)



Illinois Natural Resources Geospatial Data Clearinghouse (1998-99)

Site: Nike C-70 - FUDS  
Listed Final: Federal Facility Site  
Naperville, Illinois  
0434670016 - DuPage County

Latitude: 41.799300  
Longitude: -88.148467  
Total Acreage: 61.11



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